COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2006

Contact: John Culea (619) 531-4709

COUNTY UNVEILS IMPROVED EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Remodeled EOC Has More Space, Video Teleconference Room, Large Monitoring Screens

The County today unveiled a remodeled Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that will allow for more timely and comprehensive sharing of information during a disaster or emergency.

The County has been working since February on the new EOC and was expected to complete the work by August. However, the improvements were finished early and officials have been using the redesigned EOC for the first time this week in response to the Horse Fire.

“Protecting citizens is our most important responsibility in serving the public," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Horn. "On Monday, we began sending out a Family Disaster Plan and Personal Survival Guide to all residents of the county. Now, the upgraded Emergency Operations Center is another step in our commitment to make San Diego County the best prepared county in the nation. The EOC was completed ahead of schedule -- a good thing since it was immediately put to use for the Horse Fire."

The EOC is used by County officials to coordinate law enforcement and emergency response during a disaster. It is also used by the other agencies and organizations, including the Red Cross, San Diego Gas & Electric, the California Highway Patrol and the state Office of Emergency Services.

The redesigned EOC features a 300-inch video wall that can be split into 12 panels to monitor developments during a disaster, a video-conference room, large electronic status boards, a Joint Information Center with six plasma screens tuned to local and national news stations, and redundant systems of four different computer networks and five different telephone networks to ensure uninterrupted communications.

A Homeland Security Grant covered the $937,518 cost of the upgrade.

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1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 208 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101